

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /078 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2017

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, WA, SF

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: FIRST MEETING GOES WELL

1. SUMMARY: ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL STEYN REPORTS THAT HE IS OPTIMISTIC AFTER HIS INITIAL MEETING WITH AHTISAARI. THE STAFFS OF THE TWO MEN ARE REPORTEDLY TO SET UP WORKING COMMITTEES. AHTISAARI IS TO MEET POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS TODAY.
END SUMMARY.

2. AT AN IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE IN WINDHOEK YESTERDAY, AUGUST 7, AFTER HIS FIRST MEETING WITH AHTISAARI, JUDGE STEYN SAID THAT AN EXCELLENT PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE.

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STEYN REPORTEDLY SAID THE MEETING HAD BEEN CONDUCTED IN A VERY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE OF COOPERATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING FOR EACH OTHERS TASK AND POSITION. "I AM QUITE CERTAIN THAT MUTUAL TRUST HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED ON A PERSONAL BASIS BETWEEN MYSELF AND MR. AHTISAARI." ASKED IF HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME, STEYN REPLIED "EVER SINCE I SET FOOT HERE, I HAVE BEEN OPTIMISTIC. MY OPTIMISM HAS STRENGTHENED BY THE DAY AND IT HAS RECEIVED A

GREAT SURGE FORWARD AFTER THE GREAT RAPPORT ESTABLISHED THIS MORNING BETWEEN MYSELF AND MR. AHTISAARI."

3. THE AG REPORTEDLY POINTED OUT THAT AHTISAARI WAS IN THE TERRITORY ON A FACT-FINDING MISSION AND "THIS IS NOT AN OCCASION ON WHICH THERE WILL BE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY OF THE PROPOSALS...HE HAS TO ACQUAINT HIMSELF WITH THE FACTS PERTINENT TO THE SITUATION OF SOUTH WEST SO THAT HE CAN IN HIS OWN ESTIMATION DECIDE WHAT STEPS WILL BE NECESSARY, WHAT RESOURCES AND MATERIALS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WESTERN PROPOSALS AS NOW SET OUT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION."

4. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, STEYN NOTED THAT HE AND AHTISAARI WOULD NOW HAVE THE JOB OF INTEGRATING THEIR PERSONNEL INTO THE MUTUAL TASK WHICH THEY WOULD HAVE TO PERFORM WHICH THE UN GROUP WAS IN THE TERRITORY. "COMMITTEES WILL BE ESTABLISHED ON BOTH SIDES AND SUCH WORKING GROUPS WILL WORK SEPARATELY AND TOGETHER AND APPLY THEIR MINDS TO PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF THE WORK. I THINK THAT WE HAVE SUCCEEDED VERY WELL IN ESTABLISHING A WORKING ARRANGEMENT AND IT IS NOW A QUESTION OF MESHING THE GEARS. THE WORKING COMMITTEES WOULD DECIDE ON THE FIELD TO BE COVERED IN GATHERING INFORMATION IN THE TERRITORY." CERTAIN FIELDS, JUDGE STEYN REPORTEDLY SAID, WOULD BE ALLOTTED TO "CERTAIN WORKING COMMITTEES" AND HE AND AHTISAARI WOULD GET TOGETHER FROM TIME TO TIME TO COORDINATE AND "GATHER THE THREADS" OF WHAT THE WORKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMITTEES HAD DONE."

5. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT, IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS, THE JUDGE STATED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS WOULD BE DISCUSSED LATER ALTHOUGH IT HAD BEEN MENTIONED IN THEIR TALKS YESTERDAY. ASKED IF THIS WAS A STUMBLING BLOCK, STEYN REPLIED "I WOULD NOT SAY THAT THERE IS A STUMBLING BLOCK. AT THIS STAGE, I WOULD NOT LIKE TO ANTICIPATE MATTERS BY SAYING THAT THEY ARE STUMBLING BLOCKS."

6. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS AHTISAARI IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH SWAPO, DTA AND THE NNF TODAY, AUGUST 8. THE NATIONAL PARTY'S ELECTION FRONT, AKTUR, WAS REPORTEDLY NOT INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO MEET WITH AHTISAARI. ANOTHER REPORT, HOWEVER, SAID THAT "IT WAS THOUGHT" THAT AKTUR WOULD STILL BE APPROACHED.

7. ACCORDING TO OTHER NEWS REPORTS, THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE CONFIRMED THAT STEYN WOULD MAKE HIS FIRST REPORT ON THE INITIAL TALKS TO THE PRIME MINISTER TOMORROW, AUGUST 9. STEYN IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO GIVE A TALK ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA AT WITS UNIVERSITY TOMORROW UNDER A PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. A DFA SOURCE TOLD US THAT THE TALK AT WITS HAD BEEN SCHEDULED SOMETIME BEFORE. THE SOURCE SAID THAT HE

EXPECTED THE TALK WOULD BE VERY GENERAL IN NATURE.

8. MEANWHILE, SABC RADIO COMMENTARY THIS MORNING, AUGUST 8, EXPRESSED CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM OVER THE INITIAL MEETING BETWEEN STEYN AND AHTISAARI. THE COMMENTATOR SAID THE TALKS HAD GOTTEN OFF TO A GOOD START BUT NOTED THAT THE FIRST HURDLE IS USUALLY THE EASIEST. HE DESCRIBED AHTISAARI'S STATEMENTS TO DATE AS COOL BUT CORRECT AND PARTICULARLY WELCOMED AHTISAARI'S COMMENT THAT THE ISSUE OF WALVIS BAY WAS NOT WITHIN HIS MANDATE. EDMONDSON

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